

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A surface with hydrophilic properties, wherein the surface consists of fumed hydrophilic silica particles with an average particle size of from 1 nm to 20 μm and secured to the surface.

Claims 2 and 3 (Cancelled)

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The surface as claimed in claim 1, wherein the fumed hydrophilic silica particles have been secured to the surface by means of a carrier.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The surface as claimed in claim 1 wherein the fumed hydrophilic silica particles have been anchored in the surface.

Claim 6 (Withdrawn): A process for producing surfaces with hydrophilic properties, which comprises applying particles which have hydrophilic properties to a surface and securing them there.

Claim 7 (Withdrawn): The process as claimed in claim 6, wherein the hydrophilic particles are applied by applying a suspension which comprises hydrophilic particles in a solvent, and then are secured by removing the solvent.

Claim 8 (Withdrawn): The process as claimed in claim 7, wherein the suspension is applied to at least one surface of an article by dipping the O.Z. 5993 article into the suspension.

Claim 9 (Withdrawn): The process as claimed in claim 7, wherein the suspension is applied to at least one surface of an article by spraying the suspension onto the article.

Claim 10 (Withdrawn): The process as claimed in claim 7 wherein the suspension comprises a polymer dissolved in the solvent.

Claim 11 (Withdrawn): The process as claimed in claim 7 wherein the surface of the article is not solvated by the solvent, and after removal of the solvent the particles adhere, as a coating, to the surface of the article.

Claim 12 (Withdrawn): The process as claimed in claim 11, wherein the solvent used comprises at least one suitable compound from the group consisting of alcohols, glycols, ethers, glycol ethers, ketones, amides, nitro compounds, halogenated hydrocarbons, and mixtures of these, which does not solvate the surface of the article to be coated.

Claim 13 (Withdrawn): The process as claimed in claim 7, wherein the surface of the article is swelled or solvated by the solvent, and after removal of the solvent the particles have been anchored in the surface of the article.

Claim 14 (Withdrawn): The process as claimed in claim 13, wherein the surface which is solvated by a solvent comprises polymers based on polycarbonates, on poly(meth)acrylates, on polyamides, on PVC, on polyethylenes, on polypropylenes, on aliphatic linear or branched polyalkenes, on cyclic polyalkenes, on polystyrenes, on polyesters, on polyether sulfones, on polyacrylonitrile, or on polyalkylene terephthalates, or else comprises mixtures or copolymers of these.

Claim 15 (Withdrawn): The process as claimed in claim 13, wherein the solvent used comprises at least one compound selected from the group consisting of alcohols, glycols, ethers, glycol ethers, ketones, amides, nitro compounds, halogenated hydrocarbons and mixtures of these which is a suitable solvent for the appropriate surface.

Claim 16 (Withdrawn): The process as claimed in claim 15, wherein the solvent used comprises at least one compound which is a suitable solvent for the appropriate surface selected from methanol, ethanol, propanol, butanol, octanol, cyclohexanol, phenol, kresol, ethylene glycol, diethylene glycol, dioxane, dioxolane, tetrahydrofuran, monoethylene glycol ether, diethylene glycol ether, triethylene glycol ether, polyethylene glycol 15 ether, acetone, butanone, cyclohexanone, dimethylformamide, pyridine, N-methylpyrrolidone, N-methylcaprolactone, acetonitrile, dimethyl sulfoxide, sulfolane, nitrobenzene, dichloromethane, chloroform, tetrachloromethane, trichloroethene, tetrachloroethene, 1,2-dichloroethane, and chlorophenol, and mixtures of these.

Claim 17 (Withdrawn): The process as claimed in claim 7 wherein prior to application to the surface, the temperature of the solvent which comprises the hydrophilic particles is from -30 to 150°C, preferably from 25 to 100°C.

Claim 18 (Withdrawn): The process as claimed in claim 6, which comprises the steps of

- a) applying a curable substance as carrier to a surface,
- b) applying hydrophilic particles to the carrier, and
- c) securing the particles by curing the carrier.

Claim 19 (Withdrawn): The process as claimed in claim 18, wherein the carrier is cured by thermal energy and/or by the energy present in the light.

Claim 20 (Withdrawn): The process as claimed in claim 18 O.Z. 5993 wherein the curable carrier used comprises a lacquer which comprises at least a mixture made from mono- and/or polyunsaturated acrylates and/or methacrylates and/or polyurethanes, or comprises a hot-melt adhesive which comprises at least one compound selected from ethylene-ethyl acrylate copolymers, ethylene-vinyl acetate copolymers, polyamides, polyether sulfones, polyisobutenes, and polyvinyl butyrals.

Claim 21 (Withdrawn): The process as claimed in claim 18 wherein the carrier comprises hydrophilic particles.

Claim 22 (Withdrawn): The process as claimed in claim 6, wherein the hydrophilic particles used comprise those whose particle sizes is from 1 nm to 20 l. m, preferably from 5 nm to 5 p.m.

Claim 23 (Withdrawn): The process as claimed in claim 6, wherein the hydrophilic particles used comprise hydrophilic silicas.

Claim 24 (Previously Presented): An article which has, on at least one surface, a surface as claimed in claim 1.

Claim 25 (Previously Presented): A cleaning textile which has, on at least one surface, a surface as claimed in claim 1.

Claim 26 (Previously Presented): A fiber which has, on at least one surface, a surface as claimed in claim 1.

Claim 27 (Previously Presented): A textile which comprises fibers as claimed in claim 26.

Claim 28 (Currently Amended): The surface of claim 1, wherein the fumed hydrophilic silica particles have a BET surface area of from 50 to 600 m²/g.

Claim 29 (Currently Amended): A surface with hydrophilic properties comprising ~~The surface of claim 1, wherein the surface is composed of~~ 10 to 100% fumed hydrophilic silica particles having an average particle size of from 1 nm to 20 μm.

Claim 30 (Currently Amended): The surface of claim 29, wherein the surface is composed of 50 to 95% fumed hydrophilic silica particles.

Claim 31 (Currently Amended): The surface of claim 30, wherein the surface is composed of 75 to 85% fumed hydrophilic silica particles.

Claim 32 (Currently Amended): The surface of claim 1, wherein the fumed hydrophilic silica particles are affixed to the surface through fixative particles.